

Commissioner Meeting

July 11, 2019

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm with the pledge led by Robert Willhite. Matt Sporleder was not present.

Kiana Johnson & Jayme Day came to the meeting about County Road 400 West in Commiskey. Mrs. Johnson stated that there are pot holes in the road and that a culvert needs to be replaced on their road. She stated there are four houses on the road and a barn. They have put rock in the ditch their self because it is gone. Also she has lost the heat protector on the front of her car because of the rough condition of the road. The School bus uses this road as a turn around and farmers drive their big farm equipment on this road. She also stated that at one time several years ago that the road had been chip and sealed, but now it was gravel again. Mrs. Day asked if it could be chip and sealed again. Bob Willhite said they couldn't do anything this year because they already had the list for roads to be repaired for this year, and they would have to see what they could do next year. He told her to contact Warren Lucas Transportation Director with the school system and have him look at it and he would contact the Highway Department about replacing the culvert. Mrs. Johnson stated she was really disappointed in the roads with the pot holes and the culvert. They also asked if a stop sign that had been knocked over could be put back up. Someone on their road had tried to put it back but it was leaning.

Thrive Alliance was next on the Agenda. Mark Lindenlaub came to ask the commissioners if they would help with funding for Thrive Alliance. They are asking for \$12,000. Mark also stated that all the money stays in Jennings County and they get a match for any money that is given to them. Mark spoke about what Thrive Alliance offers residents of Jennings County. Seniors can stay in their homes by offering home health assistance services to them. Provide the Foster Grandparents program at school. This program helps all children in the classroom, but they have three target children that they help achieve goals. Provide help for caregivers that are raising children because of the Opiod epidemic. The commissioners stated they will look at their budget and see what they can do. Mr. Lindenlaub thanked them for their time.

Greg Cook came before commissioners about David Lane building a rock dam on his property that affects his farm field. He stated that it causes his field to flood when it rains, and his field will be under water if this is not removed. He stated it is illegal to impede the flow of water whether it is intentional or not intentional. He stated the commissioners are the drainage board and need to take care of this problem. On the advice of his attorney he is putting the commissioners on notice to let them know this needs to be taken care of. He brought in state codes and pictures. Chris Doran acting county attorney asked for pictures or anything that Mr. Cook would be willing to give him. Mr. Cook stated he did not have copies. Mr. Doran then asked Mr. Cook if he could come to his office so he could make copies of them and Mr. Cook stated yes. Mr. Doran stated that he should have his attorney contact him because it would be unethical for him to talk to him without his attorney present. Mr. Cook said he did not need his attorney present to talk to Mr. Doran.

~~Randy Shepherd County Assessor came to the Commissioners because he wants to switch his software~~ in his office. What he has now is an old DOS system. He stated he really needs better software and that most counties around here have X-Soft the company he would like to go with. He stated that he has the money in his reassessment fund to pay for this. The software could save him \$70,000.00 a year. The cost of the Software is \$180,000.00. He has this in his budget. It will have a yearly user fee of \$31,000.00. Dave Lane made a motion to allow the Assessor to buy the new software. Bob seconded the motion.

Brad Monday and Andrew Wiley from the Vernon Township Fire Department came before the commissioners wanting to be named the "Authority Having Jurisdiction". The team is comprised of volunteers all of which hold various level certifications from water, ice, rope, search and even emergency medical certifications with several holding all of these. They would like to be given authority so they could address any problems that would arise. Anyone from any fire department can come and join their team after they get trained. They would then be on the Vernon Township Fire Department roster. Vernon fire department has approximately \$60,000 invested in equipment with hundreds of hours of training. They have not missed going on any calls that they have been called to. One of the purposes for them asking for this is so other townships or agencies aren't duplicating what they are doing and it would help the county with any legal issues. Bob Willhite asked what kind of money are they asking for and they stated nothing right now, but we may need funding help in the future. The question was also asked why they needed this authority. They stated because they have done the training, paid for the equipment and have the roster. It was asked what about the EMA Director being in command of county wide emergencies? They said yes he would be in charge they would just be available to help. They want the fire department to come back with more information so they can get a better understanding of what they are exactly asking for. The Commissioners decided to table this until the next meeting.

Steve Graham Vice President of Wayside Inn, the homeless shelter came to the meeting asking for funding for the shelter for this year. He came last December for funding and was told to come back this year before budget time. He said they have put new windows in the building to help with their utility bills that run around \$14,075 a month. The shelter is drug free and smoke free. Background checks are done on anyone staying there. They are given clean clothes and have a machine that they put the clothes they wear to the shelter in a bug zapper to prevent bug infestation. They work to help people find jobs and homes. Steve stated that it helps take the pressure off the township trustees. There is one paid staff member and their pay is funded by local churches and donations. The shelter has been closed for two weeks for repairs. They do get funding from several places, but could really use this money. They will ask the City of North Vernon for matching funds. The Shelter is asking for \$5,000. The commissioners stated they will take this to the budget hearings and see about giving the shelter funding.

A Motion to employ was read out loud by David Lane it stated I move to rehire Nolan Stanley contingent upon him accepting all of the written restrictions given to him at the executive session dated July 3, 2019. This offer shall expire one (1) week from today's date.

Dave made a Motion to sign claims. Bob Seconded

Dave made a Motion to sign payroll. Bob Seconded

Dave made a motion to sign prior minutes. Bob Seconded

Dave made a motion to adjourn meeting. Bob Seconded

Attest:



Tessia Salsman, Auditor

Matt Sporleder



Robert Willihite



David Lane